DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SEASONAL NATURALIST JOB DESCRIPTION

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I. POSITION
Seasonal Naturalist

II. JOB SUMMARY
The Seasonal Naturalist position is a full time, seasonal commitment to create remarkable, personalized nature experiences for the Mountain Air community. Summer and part-time schedules will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

III. POSITION DURATION
The full season is May through October. A summer option will be considered if requested.

Hours: 40-hour, 5-day work week. 6-10 hours per shift, depending on program schedule. Weekend, holiday, and occasional evening availability is required.

IV. RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION
Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, environmental studies, wildlife management, or related natural science field preferred but not required. Professional outdoor or environmental education experience along with progress toward a 4-year degree or an associate degree will be considered on a case-by-case basis. An understanding of high service standards in a hospitality setting and the ability to meet these standards is critical.

V. JOB TASKS (DUTIES)
1. Nature interpretation in both field and nature center settings.
2. Development, coordination, and implementation of high-quality educational nature programs for both children and adults.
3. Care, maintenance, and coordination of educational wildlife garden.
4. Hiking and nature guide for community members and guests.
5. Weekly trail and park inspections.
6. Creation, maintenance, and care of displays including live animal habitats.
7. Assistance with preparation of marketing materials for nature programs.
8. Coordination of Mountain Air’s ongoing geocache program.
9. Assistance with wildlife control and management issues.
10. Ongoing location and identification of Mountain Air flora and fauna.
11. Coordination with Recreation Department for summer camp programming.
12. Data collection and reporting for community citizen science projects.
13. Ensuring the safety of program participants on the grounds and during off-site programs.
14. Operations of nature-based summer camps for children, including emergency standard operating procedures, communicating with families, live animal encounters, hikes, swimming, and group management.
15. Managing camper registration and health records.
16. Maintenance of inventory of supplies and equipment needed for programs and operations.
17. Operation of a point-of-sale system.
18. Assistance with administrative work, as assigned.
VI. REQUIRED ATTRIBUTES:
1. Outgoing, engaging disposition.
2. In-depth knowledge of southern Appalachian flora and fauna, particularly mammals, birds, wildflowers, and trees.
3. Comfortable working in a country club/private resort environment.
4. Understanding of and ability to deliver high service standards.
5. Enthusiastic teacher and learner with boundless curiosity.
6. Environmental or outdoor education experience.
7. Careful and effective spoken language habits.
8. Positive, flexible team player.
9. Ability to work consistently well with no supervision.
10. Confidence when leading and speaking to groups of adults or children
11. Attention to detail in written, spoken, and graphic communication.
12. Extensive personal outdoor recreation experience, i.e.: camping, hiking, paddling, fishing.
13. Ability to lead interpretive walks on rough terrain for at least 5 miles.
14. Comfortable when handling reptiles (resident corn snake and 2 turtles).
15. Enthusiastic advocate for outdoor recreation.
16. Valid driver’s license and reliable transportation to work for the term of employment (commute includes a 1,500’ elevation gain over 3 miles on Mountain Air property).
17. Ability to multi-task under pressure.
18. Excellent judgment, decisiveness, and creativity when handling new or unexpected situations.
19. Familiarity with use of a wide variety of field guides.

VII. DESIRED ATTRIBUTES
1. Childcare or teaching experience.
2. Basic 1st Aid/CPR certification or higher.
3. Familiarity with western NC and Yancey County, NC geography.
4. Knowledge of inland fish: natural history and/or sport fishing.
5. Gardening experience.
8. Ecological research experience.
10. Experience reviewing, classifying, and analyzing data.

VIII. REPORTS TO
Natural Resources Director